



California Wing Civil Air Patrol

Quarterly Safety Bulletin

2nd Quarter 2008



April 4, 2008

Bird's Eye View on Safety

Col. Kenneth W. Parris, CAP

California Wing Commander

At all CAP activities and in all CAP units we are required to have a qualified Safety Officer assigned. During operational missions there are times where the duties of Safety Officer are the responsibility of the Incident Commander until such time as he/she is able to expand the mission staff to include more personnel. Of course, the Safety Officer is one of the first special staff positions that should be filled once this expansion is undertaken.

But, there are always "Assistant Safety Officers" around to be attentive to safety concerns. Each and every member, senior and cadet, of California Wing is designated as an "Assistant Safety Officer". This is to emphasize safety is EVERYBODY'S responsibility. Recently I was attending a unit activity where a competent and qualified Safety Officer was assigned and present. When he gave his safety briefing at the beginning of the activity he reminded the participants they were all "Assistant Safety Officers". As the activity progress, I asked the Safety Officer how things were going. He commented that several members had brought potential safety issues to his attention that he was able to address and avert a mishap. The youngest "Assistant Safety Officer" to make a report was a 12 year old cadet. He noticed a potential tripping hazard that he reported. The cadet commented that falls are the leading cause of accidental injury and death in the home and he was concerned one of the older senior members might trip and fall. The problem was addressed and no mishap occurred. This is an excellent example of an "Assistant Safety Officer" taking his duties seriously.

Let's all take our additional duty as "Assistant Safety Officer" as seriously as this young cadet.

Remember – Safety is No Accident.

Safety First.....Maybe Not !

Michael Prusak LtCol USAF (Ret.)

USAF State Director

What? This goes against everything you've ever been taught in the Civil Air Patrol. We always put safety first, don't we? The surprising answer is....no! To be completely safe from harm we would have to keep our airplanes tied down on the ramps. After all, look at what we do. We fly small single engine planes in the mountains and in some of the most congested airspace in the world. That's safe?? Safety is not your mission. Your mission is to support the USAF and other agencies in areas of Search and rescue and Homeland Security.

The time it takes to become a safe aircrew.....one lifetime

The time it takes to receive an annual Safety Award.....one year

What we are really trying to do is get the mission done and eliminate as much of the risk as possible. We are all asked to manage the risk that our day to day jobs impose on us. The missions CAP takes on are typically more dangerous than our day jobs; the perception is that we are not taking risk management during CAP missions as serious.

The time it takes to implement a unit safety program...one month

The time it takes to carry out a safety survey.....one week

The first step in managing your mission risk is to make sure your risk assessment tools are asking the right questions. One excellent tool that most USAF and CAP aircrews and hopefully ground crews use is the "IM SAFE" personal checklist. Illness, Medication, Stress, Alcohol, Fatigue and Emotion are all critical mission safety detractors that should be closely monitored. Individually each safety detractor is serious; a combination of more than one is a disaster waiting to happen.

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The time it takes to conduct safety training.....
one day

The time it takes to hold a safety briefing.....
one hour

The time it takes to read a safety
poster.....one minute

So, Safety isn't really first, but it is a major consideration in all our operations. We need to think about safety throughout all of our operations. We need to think about safety throughout the mission planning and execution, continuously asking the right questions and answering them. Then we must assess what the information is telling us and look for ways to make the mission risk acceptable. Then we can continue to do what we really do well....which is getting the mission done safely.

The time it takes to destroy all the above
through a safety accident.....

One second!!

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OPERATION CAPSAFE

Operation CAPSAFE is the Safety Department's tool for receiving safety input from the CAP membership nation-wide. The program is intended to solicit safety suggestions for both air and ground operations. Every member, senior or cadet, is encouraged to submit tips and suggestions. Each month, the best suggestions in each category (air ops, ground ops) will receive a promotional item. Start thinking about Safety tips and suggestions you may have that will enhance the safety of CAP operations and activities.

Send your suggestions to us by e-mail at: cap-safe@cap.gov, or by surface mail to:

NHQ CAP/SE
105 South Hansell Street
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6332

Please see the power point presentation on Operation CAPSafe at:

<http://level2.cap.gov/visitors/programs/safety/presentations.cfm>

Safety Officer 101

By 1LT Maile Bloxsom

As a safety officer, it may seem sometimes that you are doing the job alone. Often, a squadron or group commander gives basic instructions on the paperwork that has to be done, says that a monthly briefing is required and to read the safety regulations. A friendly pat on the back is given and assurance that whatever you do will be fine.

Cue panic.

Actually, there is no need to panic. There is a wealth of resources for the safety officer. Ask questions of your group or wing safety officers. They are people whom you should come to know. Contact safety officers of nearby squadrons for ideas and resources.

Go to the Wing and National safety websites as well as the FAA and AOPA for presentation ideas, resources and information to pass onto your squadron members. The internet is a huge treasure trove of information.

Don't overlook the resources of your squadron. So many of our members have experience in the safety field or have performed various safety functions in the squadron. For example, as a safety briefing, ask your transportation officer to demonstrate a safety check on a vehicle or the aircraft manager to do an aircraft. Getting others actively involved in squadron safety is a goal for us all.

Reported Incidents 10/2007 to Present

1 aircraft incidents

0 vehicle incident

5 personal injuries

*brown recluse spider bite

*cadet fell and chipped a tooth

*senior member slipped and fell breaking hip

*aircraft equipment failure (master switch)

*cadet fall at air show

*nose bleed at meeting

Remember

101 Critical Days of Summer

Begins Memorial Day

and runs through Labor Day

Let's be safe this summer!

Unit Safety Officer's Course

This course is being conducted as per policy order # 4 (this can be found at <http://cawg.cap.gov/html/Pubs/orders.htm>) which requires that all unit Safety Officers will attend the one day Safety Officer Course. The course is required by CAWG because it gives Squadron Safety Officers a detailed review of the regulations related to Safety as well as a practical every-day approach to managing a Safety Program and the related paperwork and reports. Even if the course was not required, you would find it very useful.

This course does not replace the need for Safety Officers to take AFIADL 02170 that needs to be completed 90 days after appointment.

The cost: \$25.00

Make check payable to CAWG Civil Air Patrol and submit with form 17 to the appropriate Project Officer as listed below.

South

Date: 17 May 2008

Location: Group 7 Headquarters—Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base

Time: 1000 to 1600

Project Officer: Alex Kay, Maj., CAP

130 N. Hamilton Drive #9

Beverly Hills, CA 90211-2230

Contact: Safety@cawg.cap.gov

Application Deadline: 1 May 2008

North

Date: 14 June 2008

Location: Squadron 188 Headquarters—Oakland International Airport North Field

Time: 1000 to 1600

Project Officer: Paul Groff

14403 Seagate Drive

San Leandro, CA 94577

Contact: paulgroff@earthlink.net

Application Deadline: 16 May 2008